



NEW GUIDANCE ON DECISION DOCUMENTS

JULY 2005



Planning in a Collaborative Environment EC 1105-2-409

Purpose

- Provide revised procedures for the conduct of Corps water resources planning and the preparation of feasibility (decision) reports
- Moves Corps towards developing more comprehensive solutions to water resources problems while maintaining existing, effective processes – becoming more relevant to today's National needs and priorities



Background & Policy

- Traditional approach on project specific solutions causes concern
 - NED only
 - "Corps interest" vs "Federal interest"
 - Amount of time
- More collaborative approaches are needed to address these concerns



Timeframe for Studies - NEW

- Planning studies (recon through feasibility) will be completed in three years.
 - The level of analysis only needs to be sufficient to provide a viable number of alternatives for decision-making.
- Collaborative, watershed studies may be granted an exception to this time requirement.



Federal Interest

- Federal Interest vs. Corps Interest
- Collaborative planning may recommend a watershed plan with Corps' components as well as components to be implemented by other Federal agencies
- Highest budget priority when other Federal, state and local agencies participate with funds



Plan Selection

- All planning studies will evaluate, display and compare the full range of alternative plans' effects across all four Principles and Guidelines' accounts.
 - NED, RED, EQ, and Social Effects
- A plan may be a candidate for selection if it has, on balance, net beneficial effects.
- May select and recommend any one of the candidate plans – (ASA(CW) exception needed if not NED or NER plan)
- The basis for selection will consider the beneficial and adverse effects in all four accounts
- Must identify an NED plan (for comparison) and establishing Corps financial participation in the recommended plan.



Existing Policy

- Restates existing policy
 - Mitigation
 - Monitoring and Adaptive Management



QUESTIONS ??